

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE
CROCODILUS PALUSTRIS LESSON, 1831 (REPTILIA). Z.N.(S.) 760

By Robert Mertens (*Forschungs Institut und Natur-Museum,
Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. Main, Germany*)

The object of the present application is to preserve the specific name *palustris* Lesson, 1831, as published in the binomen *Crocodilus palustris*, by suppression of a senior subjective synonym, published in the same year.

2. Lesson, 1831, in Férusac, *Bull. Sci. nat.* 25 : 121 described the South-Asiatic Marsh Crocodile giving it the name *Crocodilus palustris*. In the synonymy is listed "*C. vulgaris*, var. Gray, Sn. Rept. 58". The part of the serial concerned is marked as having been published in April 1831. The species has since been universally known by the name *palustris*.

3. Also in 1831 Gray (J.E.), *Synopsis Rept.* : 58 published the subspecific name *indicus* in the combination *Crocodilus vulgaris indicus* for the same taxon (i.e. a subspecies of *Crocodilus vulgaris* Cuvier, 1807). Gray gave the very short but adequate indication "*Maxillis convexis*". The name *indicus* has not since been used even by Gray himself who, in 1844, *Cat. tor. Brit. Mus.* : 62, used the specific name *palustris* Lesson for the species.

4. The only available information on the date of publication of Gray's *Synopsis Reptilium* is that included in Lesson, 1831—that is the mention of this work in the list of synonymy of *Crocodilus palustris*. Under the Rules therefore Gray's work must be regarded as having been published before Lesson's.

5. In order to preserve the specific name *Crocodilus palustris* the International Commission is therefore asked :

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *indicus* Gray, 1831, as published in the combination *Crocodilus vulgaris indicus*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (2) to place the specific name *palustris*, Lesson, 1831, as published in the binomen *Crocodilus palustris* on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology ;
- (3) to place the specific name *indicus* Gray, 1831, as published in the combination *Crocodilus vulgaris indicus* (suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.